the voluntary retirement scheme, as per Government's decision; and

(d) the repercussions of the abolition of the Internal Sales Quota on the Coffee industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) After the introduction of free sale quota under which the growers are allowed to sell upto 50 per cent of their produce with out pooling with the Coffee Board, the marketing activities of the Coffee Board has reduced. However, other activities of the Coffee Board remain the same.

(c) There has been no retrenchment of Coffee Board employees. However, a Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced for the employees of the Marketing Division of Coffee Board under which a total amount of Rs. 43.80 crores is likely to be spent. But this amount will vary depending upon the number of employees opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(d) The internal sale quota upto 30 per cent of the produce which was introduced during 1992-93 has been replaced in 1994 by a Free Sale Quota Upto 50 per cent of produce. This enable the growers to sell their coffee both in domestic and external markets unlike the internal sale quota under which they could sell their produce only in the domestic market. This has given a thrust for higher exports.

Import of Rubber

867. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import rubber;

(b) if so, what is the quantum to be imported and whether the Government are thinking of including rubber under OGL; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Through a Public Notice on 2-3-1995 Government has allowed import of 10,000 MTs of Natural Rubber at nil duty upto 31-8-1995. Natural Rubber is, at present, in the negative list of imports. Trade Policy changes is a continual excersise in response to changes in the international and national economic situations.

Exports and Imports

868. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the figures of exports and imports during the current year so far both in terms of dollars as well as rupees;

(b) what is the item-wise break-up of these and growth of fall in absolute and percentage terms over the same period during the past year; and

(c) what are the main items of exports that have shown encouraging results and what is being done to promote their exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The figures of exports and imports during April-January, 1994-95, the latest period for such data are available in the current year are as follow:

	Exports	Imports
Rs. Crores:	65482.99	71247.90
US $ Million:	20871.01	22708.42

(b) Latest period for which itemwise break-up of exports and imports are available relate to April-December, 1994, in the current year. These have been published in the Brochure 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries, December, 1994). Copies of this Brochure are available in the Lok Sabha Library.

(c) Exports of major products/groups which have shown encouraging results